

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of July 21, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Application in view of the following Remarks. In that Examiner's action, claims 1-16, 18, 19, and 21-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and/or 103(a) and claims 17 and 20 allowed. By this response, the Applicants have amended certain independent claims and traversed the rejection. Claims 1-39 remain in this application. No claims have been added, canceled, or withdrawn.

No new matter has been introduced into the application. The claims are believed to be in allowable condition. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and allowance of all pending claims.

As stated in prior responses, the claims contemplate determining end of life my measurement of actual usage information, while the prior art is limited to measuring preprogrammed usage information to determine end of life. The Applicants' have amended the independent claims to more clearly describe this distinction between the Applicants' invention and the prior art.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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